

[24th July, 2000]

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the farmers especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government propose to intervene at the tobacco auction centres to foil the game plan of the Indian Tobacco Company; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has directed State Trading Corporation (STC) of India to intervene to lend buoyancy in the market. Accordingly STC has commenced procurement w.e.f 21.4.2000 and till 19.7.2000 STC has procured 5.46 million kgs of FCV tobacco. Tobacco Board has also commenced purchases of low grades tobacco at Minimum Support Price with effect from 26.6.2000.

Companies Manufacturing Calcium Carbide for Retail Sales

25. **SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many companies in Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh are manufacturing Calcium Carbide for retail sales in the country;

(b) whether any licence is required to be taken to sell these indigenously manufactured Calcium Carbide (solid form) by retailers in Karnataka; and

(c) if so, upto which limit, the retailers can sell it without obtaining any licence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) The information is as below:

(a) Karnataka	:	2
(b) Kerala	:	11
(c) Tamil Nadu	:	10
(d) Andhra Pradesh	:	1

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per rule 26 of the Calcium Carbide Rules, 1987, a licence is required by retailers to store and sell indigenously manufactured Calcium Carbide (solid form).

Provided that no licence shall be required for storage of carbide—

(a) in any quantity not exceeding five kilogrammes if it is kept in prescribed receptacles each containing not more than one kilogram;

(b) in any quantity exceeding five kilogrammes but not exceeding two hundred kilogrammes, subject to the following conditions namely:

- (i) the receptacles shall be stored in a dry and well ventilated storage shed, which may form a part of or attached to a building provided that it is separated therefrom by a substantial partition and the only means of access to it is from outside air;
- (ii) due precautions shall be taken to prevent unauthorised persons from having access to the receptacles;
- (iii) the receptacles shall be kept securely closed except while taking out carbide therefrom.

Development of Commerce and Industry in North East States

26. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to develop commerce and industry in North Eastern States in coming three years; and

(b) if, so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) With a view to develop commerce and industry in North Eastern States an industrial policy exclusively for North Eastern States has been announced by the Central Government on 24.12.97.

(b) Details given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Cabinet approved a new industrial policy for the North Eastern Region on November 20, 1997. Ministry of Industry notified this Policy on December 24, 1997. The salient features of the policy are as follows: